

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Documentation

A student has requested support services from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at SUNY Geneseo in regards to a Hearing disability. To be eligible for disability support, ODS guidelines require that students provide documentation of the condition and how it impacts his/her access to learning or other major life activities.

Deafness can be defined in general as inability to perceive sound or speech. Deafness, as defined by individuals within the Deaf community, generally refers only to individuals whose language is American Sign Language (ASL) and who are very much a part of Deaf culture. Hard of hearing, in the Deaf community, refers to individuals who have hearing loss, who may or may not use ASL, and who often interact with hearing individuals. For DSS purposes, hard of hearing will simply describe individuals with a degree of hearing loss for which they require classroom accommodation.

Professionals recommended to provide documentation include general physicians, otologists, otorhinolaryngologists, audiologists, and speech language pathologists. Documentation should be printed on letterhead that lists the Name, Profession, License Number, Office Address, Phone, Fax, and Email of the Certifying Professional. The letter must include all of the information requested below; if this information is not provided, services may be delayed as ODS obtains clarification. Please call 585-245-5112 if you have questions. Documentation may be faxed to 585-245-5091, attached to an email (disabilityservices@geneseo.edu), or it may be mailed to the address at the bottom of this page. ODS welcomes any additional documentation that is pertinent to providing academic and programmatic access for the student.

Documentation adequate to establish eligibility for services must include:

- A written statement of diagnosis and etiology
- Specification of assessment procedures and instruments used to make the diagnosis
- Current audiogram
- Classification of the degree of hearing loss as to mild, moderate, or severe
- Indication of whether the condition is stable or progressive
- Information regarding functional limitations and academic impact of the hearing loss